

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method of facilitating trading, comprising:

automatically, by a computer, checking the compatibility of fields of an active negotiation request and a passive negotiation request, including checking the compatibility of disclosure signatures associated with the active and passive negotiation requests, each of said disclosure signatures indicating a disclosure level of a plurality of disclosure levels that specifies an amount of information that can be provided to a contra-party, and

automatically, by a computer, reporting information to the owners of the active and passive negotiation requests based on at least one of the disclosure signatures.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the fields are incompatible and the automatically reporting reports an inquiry.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the fields are compatible and the automatically reporting reports a pairing.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the automatically comparing and checking are performed by a market process operating on the computer.

16-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method of facilitating trading, comprising:

automatically, by a computer, storing an order in association with a disclosure signature, and

automatically, by a computer, responding to a price inquiry in accordance with the disclosure signature of the order,

wherein the disclosure signature indicates a disclosure level that specifies an amount of information that can be provided to a contra-party.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising notifying an owner of the stored order of the price inquiry.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein each of the stored order and the price inquiry has associated therewith a respective call list, and wherein automatically responding includes automatically checking for compatibility of the call lists.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein each of the stored order and the price inquiry has associated therewith a respective disclosure signature, and wherein automatically responding includes automatically checking for compatibility of the disclosure signatures.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein each of the disclosure signatures indicates a disclosure level selected from (i) none, (ii) owner, (iii) owner and symbol, (iv) owner, symbol and side, (v) owner, symbol, side, and approximate minimum lot size, (vi) owner, symbol, side, minimum lot size and soft price, and (vii) owner, symbol, side, minimum lot size and hard price.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the response is a text message.

35. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the response includes a soft price.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the automatically responding is performed by a market process operating on the computer based on a relationship with at least one of an owner of the order and an owner of the price inquiry.

37-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising automatically checking call lists associated with the active and passive negotiation requests, wherein the information automatically reported to the owners of the active and passive negotiation requests depends on the checking of the call lists.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the information is automatically reported only if permitted by the call lists of the active and passive negotiation requests.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising determining that a trade is not possible based on the checking of the call lists.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein if a trade is not possible, the active negotiation request becomes a passive negotiation request and is added to a file of passive negotiation requests.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the active negotiation request includes a price proposal for an item indicated in the passive negotiation request.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the information automatically reported to the owner of the passive negotiation request includes the price proposal.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the passive negotiation request includes a reserve price, the method further comprising automatically detecting whether the reserve price in the passive negotiation request at least meets a reserve price in the active negotiation request.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein if the reserve price in the passive negotiation request at least meets the reserve price in the active negotiation request, the information automatically reported to the owners of the active and passive negotiation requests includes an indication that a trade is possible.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising automatically checking call lists associated with the stored order and the price inquiry, wherein the automatically responding depends on the checking of the call lists.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein a response to the price inquiry is provided only if permitted by the call lists of the stored order and the price inquiry.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising determining that a trade is not possible based on the checking of the call lists.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein if a trade is not possible, the price inquiry becomes an order that is stored with other orders.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the stored order includes a reserve price, the method further comprising automatically detecting whether the reserve price in the stored order at least meets a reserve price in the price inquiry.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein if the reserve price in the stored order at least meets the reserve price in the price inquiry, the automatically responding includes providing an indication that a trade is possible.

53. (Currently amended) A computer-accessible medium having executable instructions stored thereon for facilitating trading, wherein the instructions, ~~[[when]]~~ if executed, cause a computer to:

automatically check the compatibility of fields of an active negotiation request and a passive negotiation request,

automatically check the compatibility of disclosure signatures associated with the active and passive negotiation requests, each of said disclosure signatures indicating a disclosure level of a plurality of disclosure levels that specifies an amount of information that can be provided to a contra-party, and

automatically report information to the owners of the active and passive negotiation requests based on at least one of the disclosure signatures.

54. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim 53, wherein the fields are incompatible and wherein the instructions, ~~[[when]]~~ if executed, cause the computer to automatically report an inquiry.

55. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim 53, wherein the fields are compatible and wherein the instructions, ~~[[when]]~~ if executed, cause the computer to automatically report a pairing.

56. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 53, wherein the instructions are performed by a market process operating on the computer.

57. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim 53, wherein the instructions, ~~[[when]]~~ if executed, further cause the computer to check call lists associated with the active and passive negotiation requests, wherein the information automatically reported to the owners of the active and passive negotiation requests depends on the checking of the call lists.

58. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim 57, wherein the instructions, ~~[[when]]~~ if executed, cause the computer to automatically report if permitted by the call lists of the active and passive negotiation requests.

59. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim 57, wherein the instructions, [[when]] if executed, further cause the computer to determine that a trade is not possible based on the checking of the call lists.

60. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 59, wherein if a trade is not possible, the instructions cause the computer to add the active negotiation request as a passive negotiation request to a file of passive negotiation requests.

61. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 53, wherein the active negotiation request includes a price proposal for an item indicated in the passive negotiation request.

62. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 61, wherein the information automatically reported to the owner of the passive negotiation request includes the price proposal.

63. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim 53, wherein the passive negotiation request includes a reserve price, the computer-accessible medium further comprising instructions that, [[when]] if executed, cause the computer to determine whether the reserve price in the passive negotiation request at least meets a reserve price in the active negotiation request.

64. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 63, wherein if the reserve price in the passive negotiation request at least meets the reserve price in the active negotiation request, the instructions cause the computer to automatically report to the owners of the active and passive negotiation requests an indication that a trade is possible.

65-72. (Canceled)

73. (New) A computer apparatus configured to facilitate trading, comprising:

a computer processor in communication with a memory, wherein the memory has stored therein executable instructions that, if executed, cause the processor to check the compatibility of fields of an active negotiation request and a passive negotiation request, wherein checking the compatibility of fields includes checking the compatibility of disclosure signatures associated with the active and passive negotiation requests, each of said disclosure signatures indicating a disclosure level of a plurality of disclosure levels that specifies an amount of information that can be provided to a contra-party, and to report information to the owners of the active and passive negotiation requests based on at least one of the disclosure signatures.

74. (New) A computer apparatus configured to facilitate trading, comprising:

means for automatically checking the compatibility of fields of an active negotiation request and a passive negotiation request, including checking the compatibility of disclosure signatures associated with the active and passive negotiation requests, each of said disclosure signatures indicating a disclosure level of a plurality of disclosure levels that specifies an amount of information that can be provided to a contra-party, and

means for automatically reporting information to the owners of the active and passive negotiation requests based on at least one of the disclosure signatures.